

REMARKS

This Response is being filed within the three month statutory period for reply, which is due to expire on September 21, 2006.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this case. Only independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended by this Response.

Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-17 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,785,640 to Kresch et al. ("Kresch"). Claims 2 and 15 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Kresch.

Although applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite first and second extension portions wherein the movable portion of each is coupled to the stationary portion "along a line that is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the stem," and to further recite that the movable portion is movable relative to the stationary portion "about said substantially perpendicular line." Independent claim 9 has been similarly amended. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Kresch. As such, applicants believe that Kresch fails to anticipate or render obvious present independent claims 1 and 9. By virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1 or 9, applicants also believe that each of dependent claims 2-8 and 10-17 are patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-17 is respectfully requested.

Although no fee is believed to be due in connection with this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit Account No. 10-0750/GYN-5012/MJS.

Should any minor points remain prior to issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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